

Amendment

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/678,636

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-91. (Canceled)

92. (Currently Amended) A method of completing a sub-sea well using a horizontal christmas tree for production flow control, the horizontal christmas tree having a body, the method comprising the steps of:

forming an assembly by installing a completion string terminating at its upper end in and suspended from a tubing hanger in the body of the horizontal christmas tree, the assembly being formed above the water line; and,

~~running the assembly to the sub-sea well, the method characterised in that wherein~~ the tubing hanger and the horizontal christmas tree are above the water-line during the step of forming the assembly while control of the well is maintained by using at least two independently verifiable deep-set well control barriers.

93. (Original) A method of completing a sub-sea well using a horizontal christmas tree for production flow control according to claim 92, wherein the step of forming the assembly further comprises the steps of landing and locking the tubing hanger in the body of the christmas tree.

94. (Original) A method of completing a sub-sea well using a horizontal christmas tree for production flow control according to claim 93, wherein the method further comprises the step of verifying the integrity of the completed assembly above the water line.

95. (Original) A method of completing a sub-sea well using a horizontal christmas tree for production flow control according to claim 94, wherein the step of verifying the integrity comprises the step of verifying hydraulic and electrical interfaces between the tubing hanger and the

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body of the christmas tree.

96. (Original) A method of completing a sub-sea well using a horizontal christmas tree for production flow control according to claim 94, wherein the step of verifying the integrity further comprises the step of verifying the pressure integrity of the assembly.

97. (Original) A method of completing a sub-sea well using a horizontal christmas tree for production flow control according to claim 92, wherein the step of running the assembly to the well head comprises the step of using a lower-riser package.

98. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
coupling a tubing string with a Christmas tree above water; and
landing the Christmas tree on a subsea wellhead while maintaining control of the well
using at least two independently verifiable deep-set well control barriers.

99. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 98, wherein coupling the tubing string with the Christmas tree comprises installing a tubing hanger on an uppermost joint of the tubing string and locking the tubing hanger to the Christmas tree.

100. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 98, further comprising:
running the Christmas tree, the tubing hanger, and the tubing string open-water to a well extending from the subsea wellhead.

101. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 100, wherein running the Christmas tree, the tubing hanger, and the tubing string further comprises running the Christmas tree, the tubing hanger, and the tubing string without a blow-out preventer.

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102. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 98, wherein coupling the tubing string with the Christmas tree comprises installing a tubing hanger on an uppermost joint of the tubing string, locking the tubing hanger in a tubing spool, and attaching the tubing spool to the Christmas tree.

103. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
coupling a tubing string with a tubing hanger above water;
landing the tubing hanger on a subsea wellhead; and
landing a Christmas tree on the subsea wellhead while maintaining control of the well
using at least two independently verifiable deep-set well control barriers.

104. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 103, further comprising:
latching the tubing hanger to the Christmas tree.

105. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 103, further comprising:
latching the tubing hanger to the wellhead.

106. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 103, wherein landing the tubing hanger on the subsea wellhead further comprises landing the tubing hanger on the subsea wellhead via a tubing spool and latching the tubing hanger to the tubing spool.